



THE NOAA FORECAST

From the sun to the sea and everywhere in between
News from NOAA's Office of Communications

Zebra Mussel Found in Pennsylvania Waterways

For the first time, zebra mussels have been discovered in a Pennsylvania waterway in the Susquehanna River watershed. The Pennsylvania Zebra Mussel Monitoring Network first discovered the mussels in Cowanesque Reservoir as part of a routine monitoring visit.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant has worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to alert visitors and assess the degree of the mussels' presence in the lake.



Invasive species like zebra mussels pose serious threats because of their potential to foul industrial facilities and plug public water supply intakes that draw from infested waters. Invasive species also can interfere with the operation of locks and dams on rivers, or damage boat hulls and engines.

Postcards from the field



Craig Russell

NOAA's new ocean exploration ship, the *Okeanos Explorer*, shows off its new paint job at Todd Shipyard in Seattle. The *Okeanos* is expected to be commissioned in 2008

NOAA Announces Appointment of Regional Fishery Councils

The Commerce Department recently announced the appointment of 19 members to the eight regional fishery management councils. The councils, established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, prepare fishery management plans for marine fish stocks in their respective geographical areas of responsibility.

Council members represent diverse interests, including commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as environmental, academic and other interests from each geographic area. The Secretary of Commerce appoints a total of 72 obligatory and at-large members to the eight regional councils. Council members serve three-year terms, and may be reappointed to serve up to three consecutive terms. Approximately one-third of the terms expire annually.

"Council members are a key part of the fisheries management process and it is vital that each council is comprised of knowledgeable people representing a variety of interests," said Bill Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries Service.

A full list of the appointments can be found at: <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2007/jun07/noaa07-r118.html>

Comments? Suggestions? Want to be added to or removed from our list?

Email us at:
External.Affairs@noaa.gov

From the Helm Admiral Lautenbacher

It's the middle of summer here in D.C. and the appropriations season is heating up as much as the temperatures.

NOAA has been very fortunate in recent years in receiving strong support for our programs on the Hill. We have worked hard to show that our programs are of significant value to the lives of every American citizen.

We may have a tendency to get caught up in the appropriations process with its flurry of Committee marks, floor amendments and conference reports. However, I want to remind you that budgeting is a year-long effort.

NOAA is committed to a comprehensive planning and budgeting process to ensure that our programs are performing well and providing citizens with the products and services they most need.

In a tight budget environment it is vital that programs can prove their value and it is a commitment we take very seriously.

Throughout this entire process we need feedback to help shape our priorities for the future. If you are not already, I would encourage you to engage with our [Office of Program, Planning and Integration](#) to help ensure we're meeting our highest priority needs.

NOAA on the Hill

On July 11th, NESDIS Assistant Administrator Mary Ellen Kicza testified before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on U.S. weather and environmental satellites, including the NOAA National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS). She provided a progress report on the changes to the NPOESS program since Nunn-McCurdy certification. Kicza said, "The significant management changes and the reduced risk profile resulting from the Nunn-McCurdy certification and subsequent restructuring have had major positive affects on the program. The program is meeting the interim budget and schedule. We are in the final stages of renegotiating the contract, which should be complete this summer."

On July 12th, NOAA Administrator Lautenbacher testified before a House Natural Resources Subcommittee on the National Offshore Aquaculture Act ([HR 2010](#)). "Enactment of HR 2010 will allow the United States to become more self-sufficient in the production of healthy seafood by growing more of it here at home," testified Lautenbacher. "It will help create more jobs in coastal communities and help our nation reduce its \$8 billion seafood trade deficit. The United States must develop aquaculture as a complement to commercial fishing or it will be forced to import increasing amounts of farm-raised seafood from other countries."

Complete testimony can be found at NOAA's [Office of Legislative Affairs website](#).

Constituents Offer Feedback on NOAA's Research and Science

On July 10, Dr. Richard Spinrad, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research, and Mary Kicza, Assistant Administrator for NESDIS, brought together a diverse group of high-level constituents to provide input to ensure NOAA's research priorities will enable us to provide the high quality data, sophisticated models, and scientific knowledge our partners and customers will require in the future. A summary of the roundtable will be posted on the [OAR Constituent Relations Website](#) soon. If you are interested in participating in a future roundtable, please contact oar.constituents@noaa.gov.

Coral Reef Program Seeks Constituent Feedback as Part of Blue Ribbon Review

[NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program](#) is undertaking a comprehensive external review of the Program to evaluate the success of the CRCP and to provide recommendations that the CRCP may use to improve the program.

The review will take place in September 2007 and will be conducted by a seven-member Blue Ribbon Panel of experts in natural resource science and management.

As part of this review, the CRCP is looking for input from stakeholders and partners via a [Federal Register Notice](#) (.pdf file).

The CRCP is most interested in obtaining feedback based on the public's interaction and experience with the Program.

The CRCP is seeking input on the following questions:

- Is the Program focusing efforts on the right suite of activities to advance coral reef conservation?

Did you know?

The NOAA Sea Grant training program at 5,000 seafood processing plants will prevent 20,000 to 60,000 seafood-related illnesses a year, saving consumers as much as \$115 million annually.



- Are the Program's efforts in various geographic areas appropriate to address the issues in each region?
- Are the Program's science and observation efforts (e.g., research, mapping, and monitoring) adequately addressing management needs, and informing and resulting in management actions?

- Have the Program's education and outreach efforts been effective in reaching the proper audiences?
- Is the Program providing effective leadership and

- building useful partnerships to advance coral reef conservation?
- How can the CRCP improve its impact and performance in the future?

Your comments must be submitted no later than July 19, 2007. You may submit comments electronically via email to crcp.comments@noaa.gov

Upcoming Events July

13-17 - National Association of Counties, Annual Meeting - Richmond, Va.

16-20—Marine Protected Area Effectiveness Workshop—St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

22-26 - Coastal Zone 2007 - Portland, Ore.

23-27 - National Marine Educator's Association - Portland, Maine